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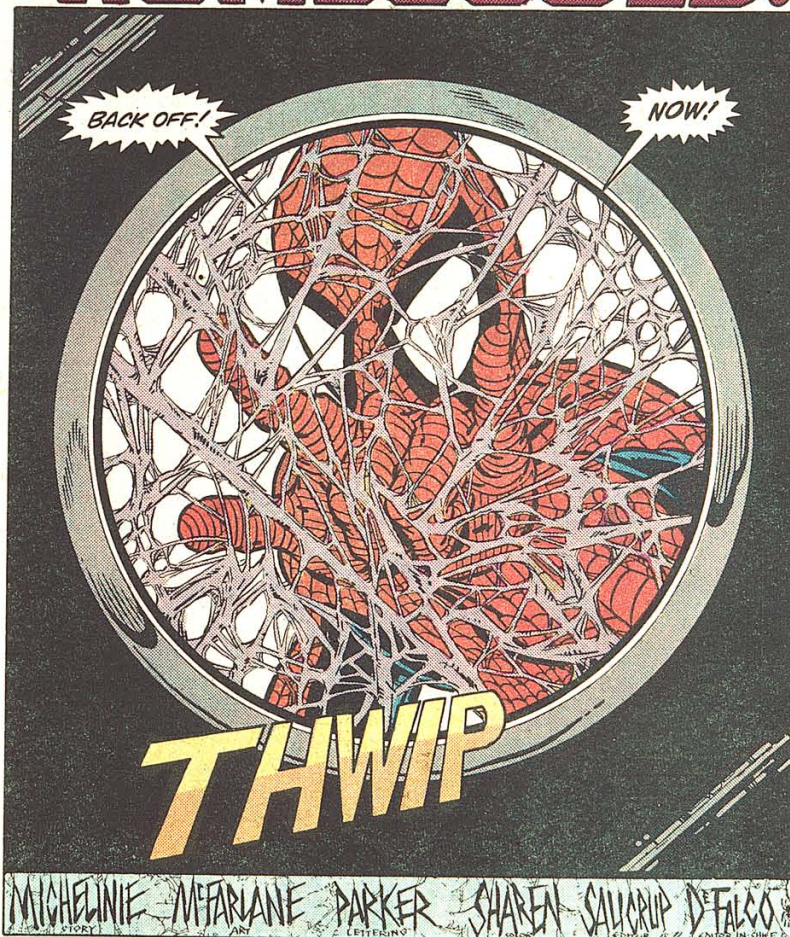
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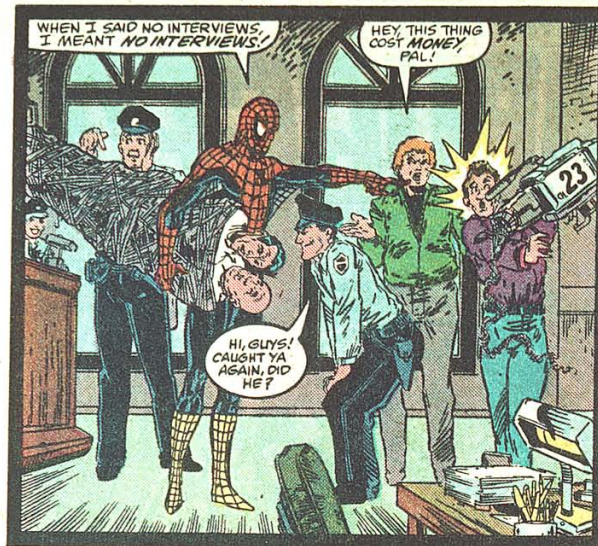
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HUMBUGGED!

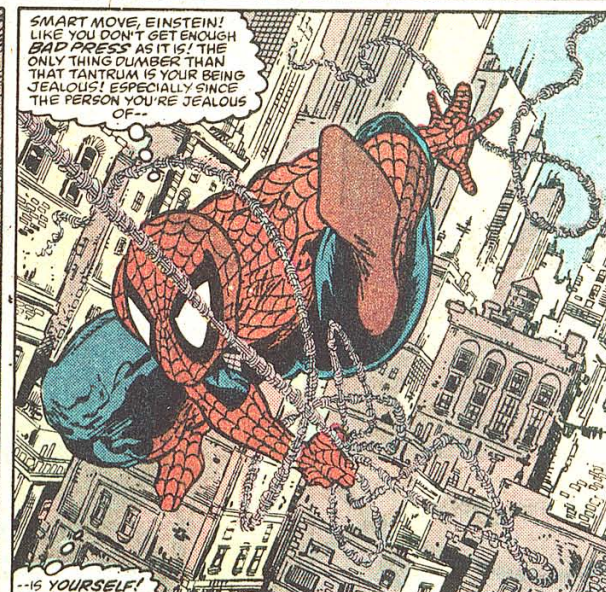
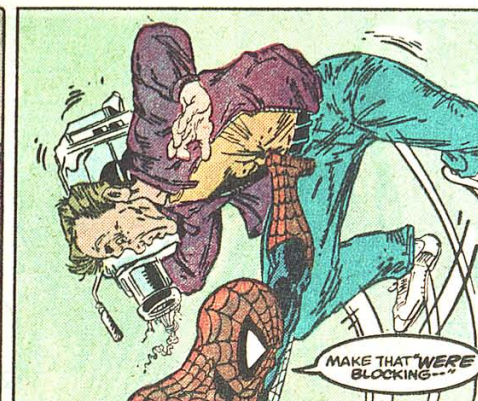


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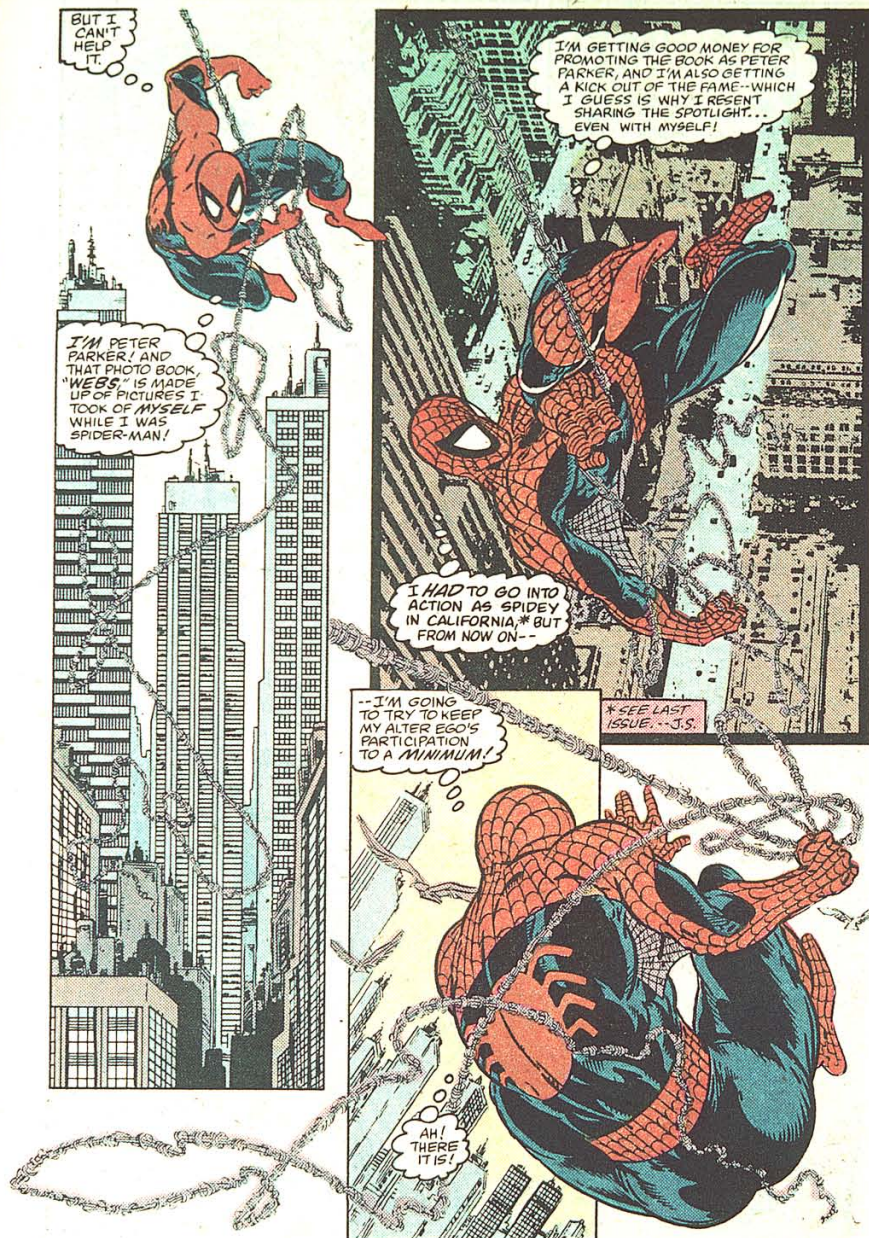
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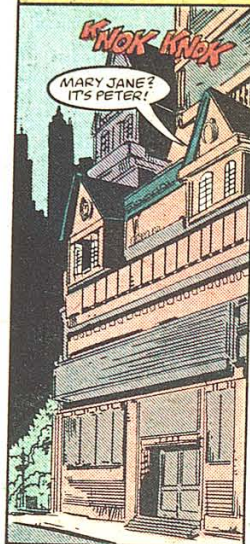
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WHILE AT THE BEDFORD TOWERS CONDOMINIUM RESIDENCE, ON MANHATTAN'S UPPER WEST SIDE...



MARY JANE?
IT'S PETER!

UH-UH.
HANDS
ARE
FULL.

LOSE YOUR
KEY, HON?

SEE?



SILLY. GUESS YOU HAD TO USE
ALL YOUR SPIDER-STRENGTH
TO HAUL THAT HEAVY LOAD UP
HERE, HUH?

NO. NOT
ALL OF IT.

I SAVED
SOME FOR
LATER.

MMMROWRR.



MAYBE
SOMEONE'S
BRINGING ME
ANOTHER
ROSE.

LOOKS LIKE THIS
IS OUR DAY FOR
VISITORS.

KNOX
KNOX



WHY, MR. CAESAR!

PLEASE,
CALL ME
JONATHON.

I HEARD YOU'D
RETURNED FROM
LOS ANGELES,
MY DEAR, AND
I WANTED
TO WELCOME
YOU BACK--



--IN A SUITABLE
MANNER.

RIDLEY?
IF YOU
PLEASE?

HERE YA
GO, MA'AM.

WHY, JONATHON!
THANK YOU!



I'M ALSO HAVING A LITTLE
PARTY FRIDAY EVENING--YOU
WILL COME, WON'T YOU?

WELL, WE'RE
GOING TO
CLEVELAND
THURSDAY--

--BUT WE
SHOULD BE
BACK BY
FRIDAY NIGHT.
OKAY, PETER?

UM, I
GUESS.



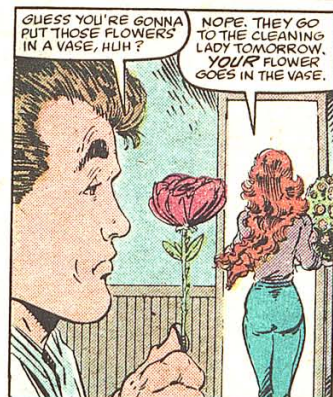
EXCELLENT! I'LL BE
EXPECTING YOU.

BOTH OF
YOU, OF
COURSE.



BUT FOR THE
MOMENT, I
MUST TAKE MY
LEAVE.

GEE, SHOULD I
THROW UP NOW,
OR WAIT TILL
LATER?



GUESS YOU'RE GONNA
PUT THOSE FLOWERS
IN A VASE, HUH?

NOPE. THEY GO
TO THE CLEANING
LADY TOMORROW.
YOUR FLOWER
GOES IN THE VASE.



I BELIEVE IN ONLY
KEEPING THE IMPOR-
TANT THINGS.



HAVE I
TOLD YOU
I LOVE
YOU?

NOT FOR
MINUTES...!

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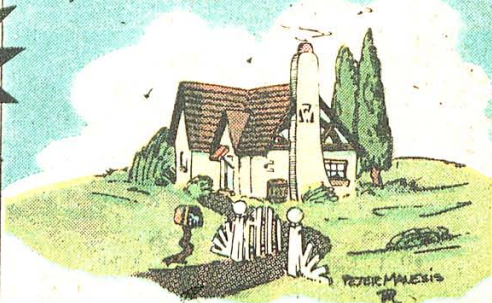
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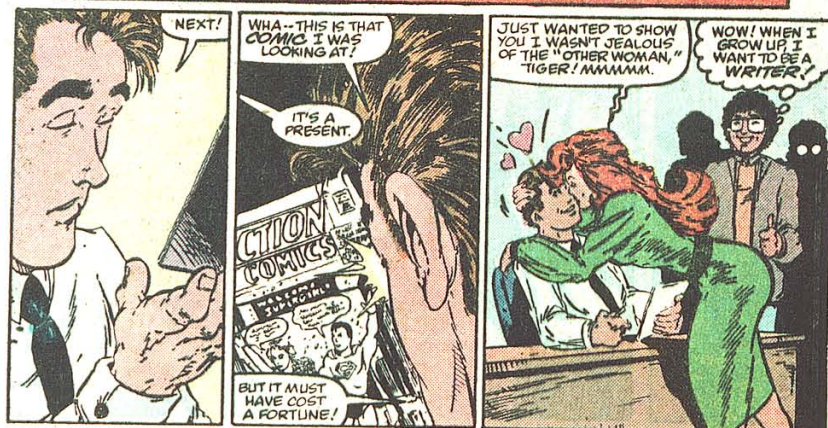
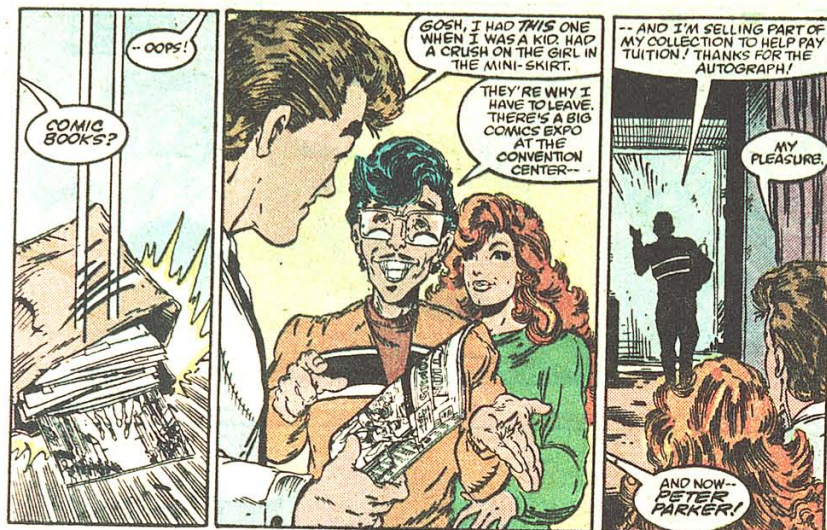
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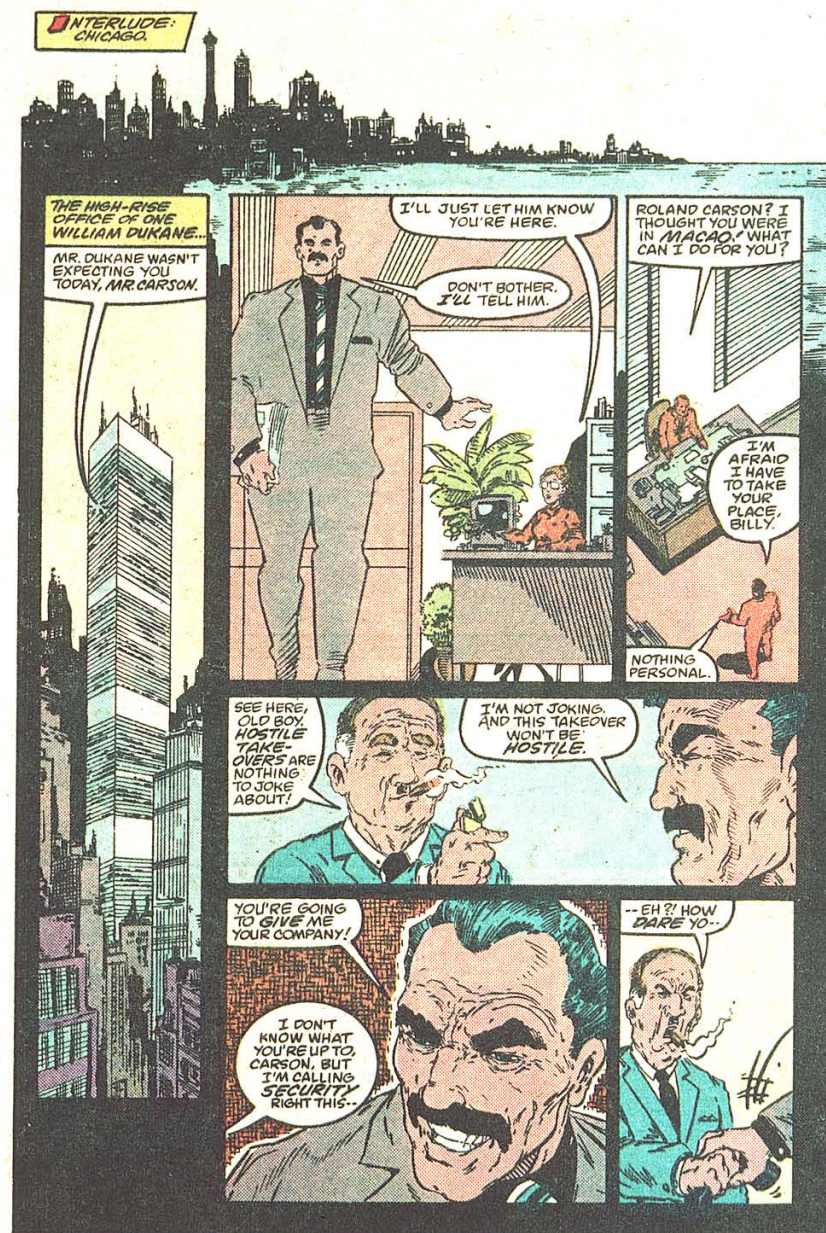
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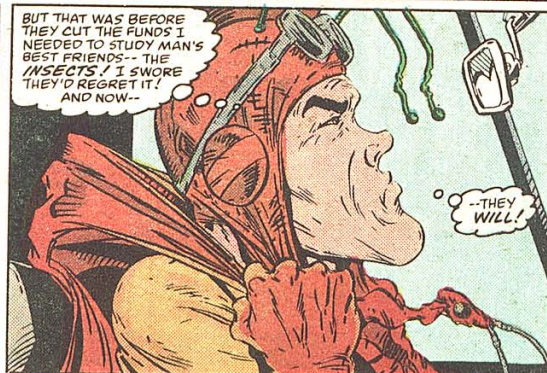
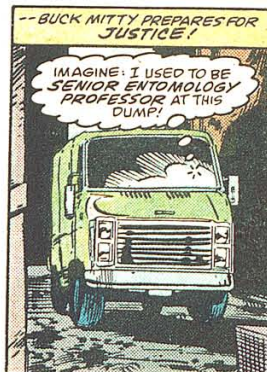
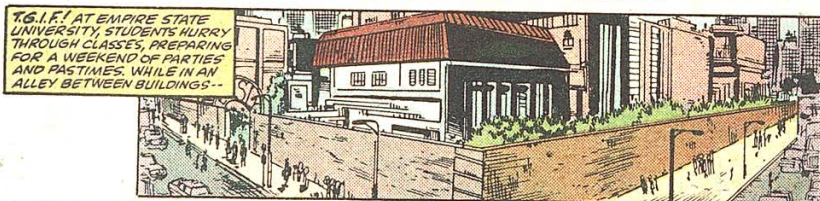
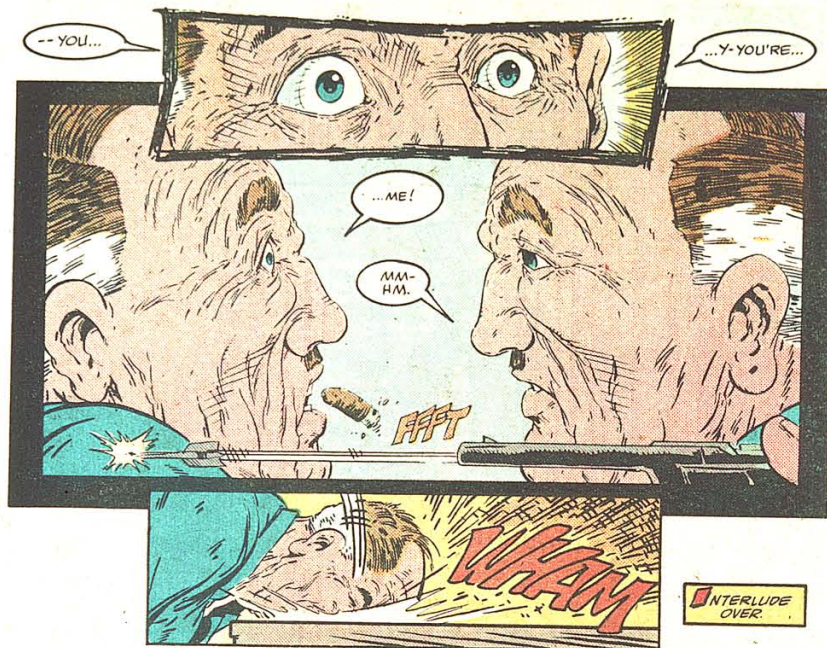




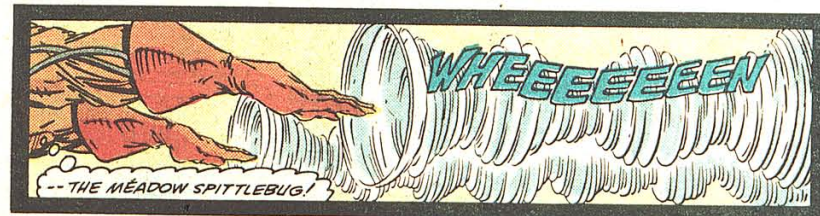
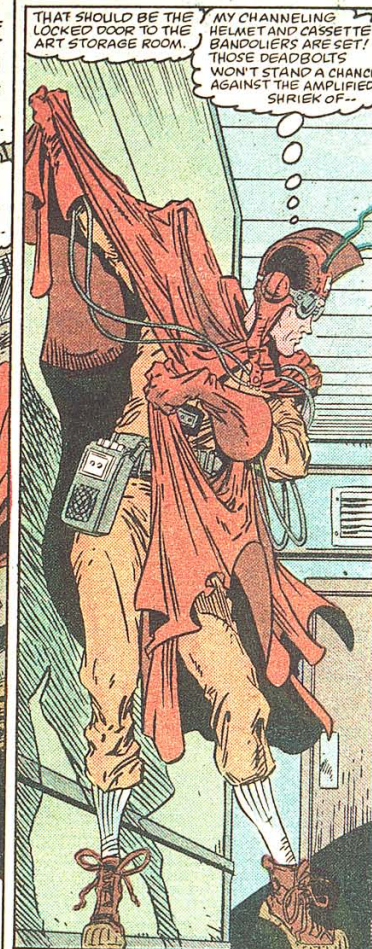
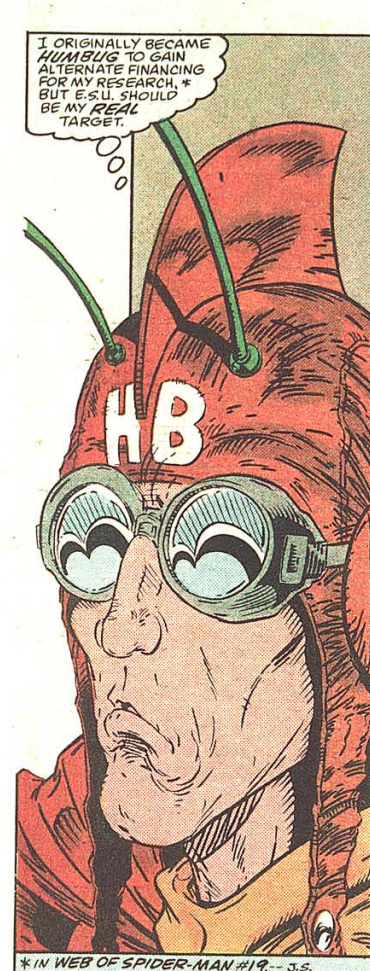
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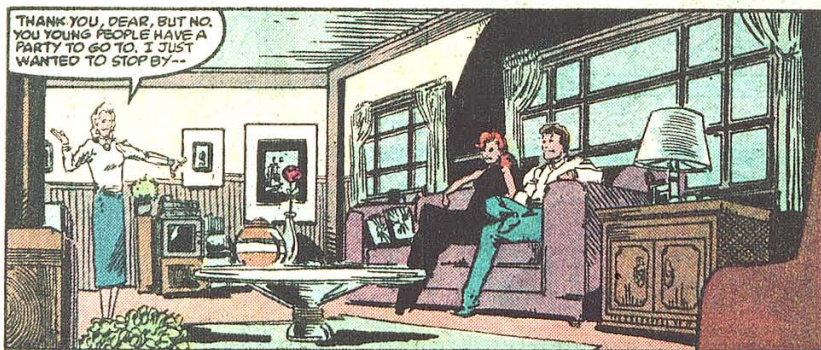
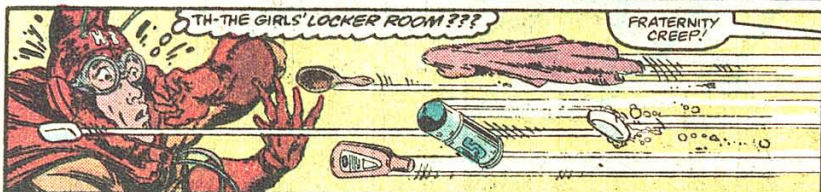
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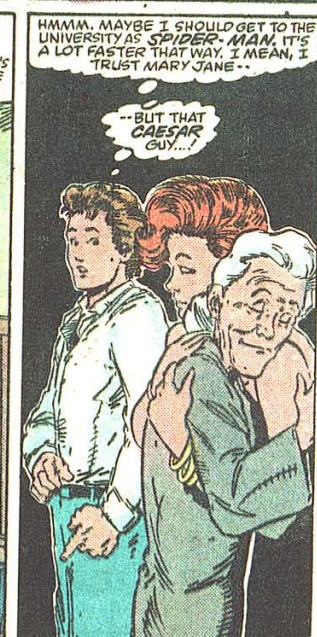
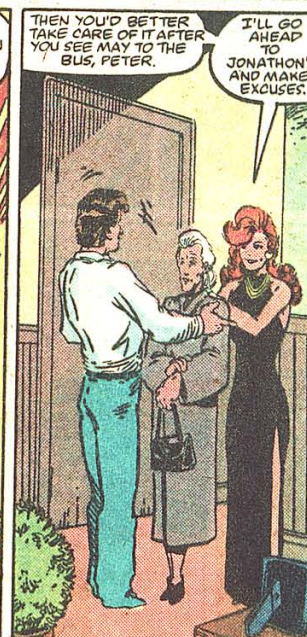
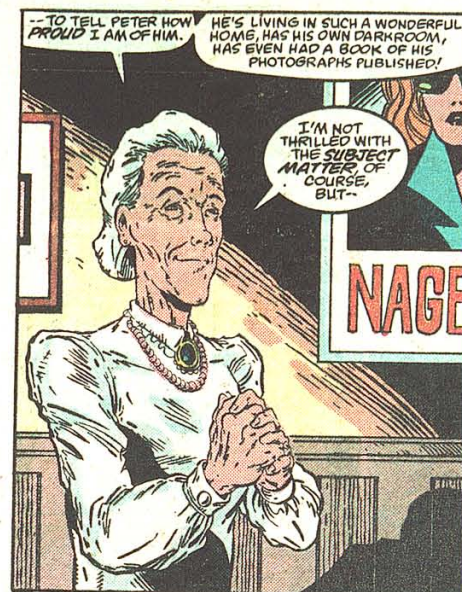
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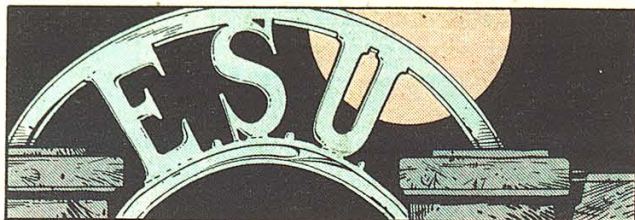


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HOWEVER, WHILE MAY PARKER IS BEING LEFT IN THE TRUST OF THE METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY, ANOTHER TRAVELER HAS COME HERE--



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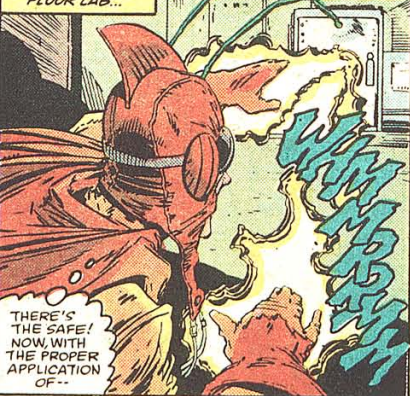


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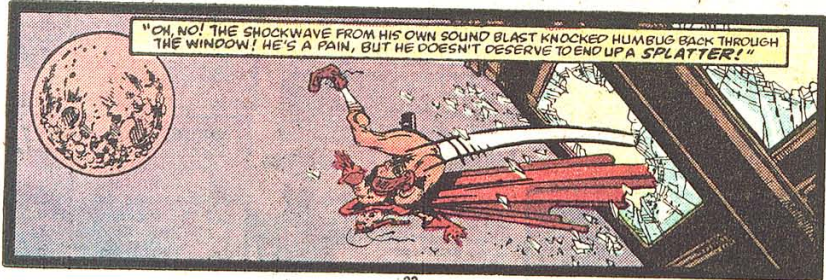
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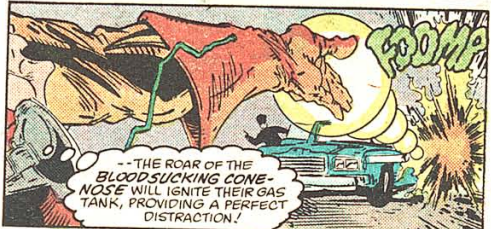
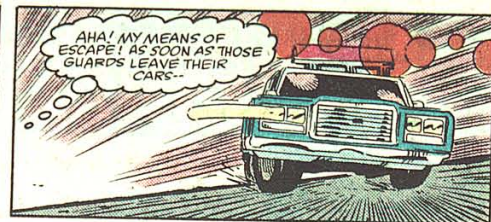
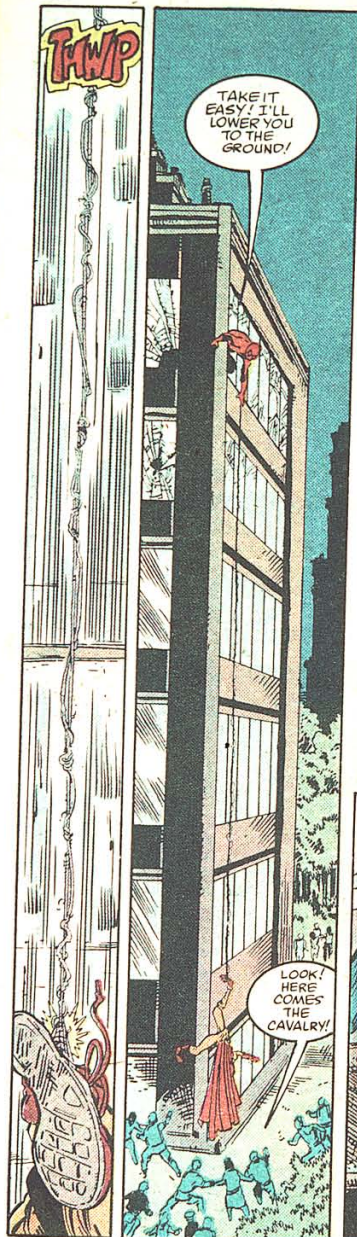
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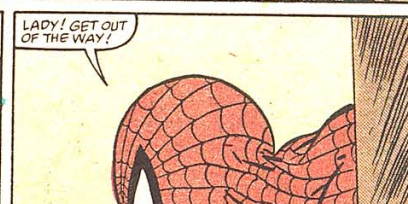
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24



25

RULES

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"Always figured we X-MEN led charmed lives — That, no matter what, we'd pull through, live forever. The joke sure was on me."

— Kitty Pryde, *Shadowcat EXCALIBUR #1*

ITEM: We know your startled sensibilities are still reeling from last month's amazing announcement of how mighty Marvel's upper editorial echelon has recently undergone an upheaval. But wait — there's more! We've recently added three new frantic faces to our chaotic core of assistant editors, and they are: *Josiah James DiGiovanni* (a recent graduate of Wesleyan University in Connecticut who will be assisting *Battling Bobbie Chase*), *Agonizing Andrew Perry* (one of our former college interns who has been paired with *Credible Craig Anderson*)

and *Sassy Sara Tuchinsky* (who worked as an Epic intern and now serves with *Grouchy Gregory Wright* in our Special Projects Department). Let's give our terrific trio a hearty welcome! After all, the assistants of today are your editors of tomorrow!

ITEM: Hyboria's asir over the June wedding of Marvel's own Jubilant *Goof Isherwood* (the incredible embellisher of a certain well-known, Cimmerian) and writer/artist (*Red*) *Sonya Skarstedt*. So raise your flagons and unleash a tumultuous toast to a match made in Valhalla!

ITEM: Let's all give a rousing welcome to the two newest additions to mighty Marvel's baby brigade! *IRON MAN* penciler *Jackson Guice* and his winsome wife *Julie* announced the birth of their daughter *Elizabeth Diane*, who arrived on February 16... and *Ron Wagner* (of *G.I. JOE* penciling fame) and his scintillating spouse *Cindy* happily informed us that little *Nikki* bounced into their lives on March 5. Congratulations to all four proud parents!



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Editor: MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, EXCALIBUR, SPEEDBALL, WOLFPACK (LS), and HERO (LS)

Marvel freelance credits (past): ANIMAX and KICKERS, INC.
Marvel freelance credits (present): SOLO AVENGERS Stories.

My hobbies are: Semi-legal.

The single work of which I am most proud is: Pretty darn good.

My pet peeves are: Almost housebroken.

My place of birth is: Not yet a shrine.

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: A long story.

My oddest habit is: Not suitable for print.

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: A nineteen-year-old.

The reason I got into comics was: Extremely interesting.

People who knew me in High School thought I was: In grammar school.

My favorite performers are: Double-jointed.

The last good book I read was: \$5.95.

The last good movie I saw was: \$4.00.

The biggest influences on my work include: My creditors.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: A great frustration to me.

The worst part of my job is: Not done yet.

When nobody's looking I like to: Try and get their attention back.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: Top-secret.

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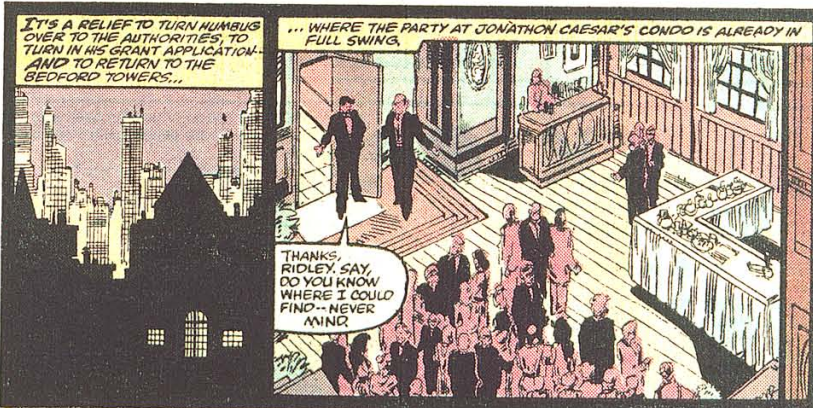
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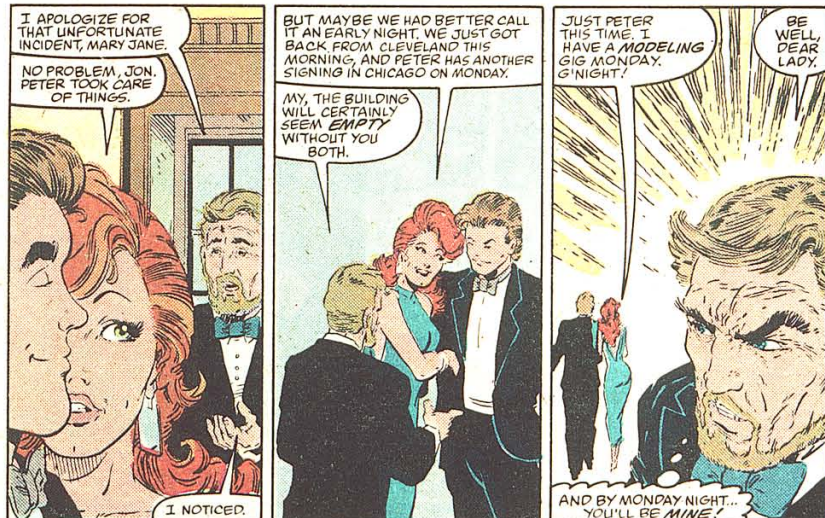
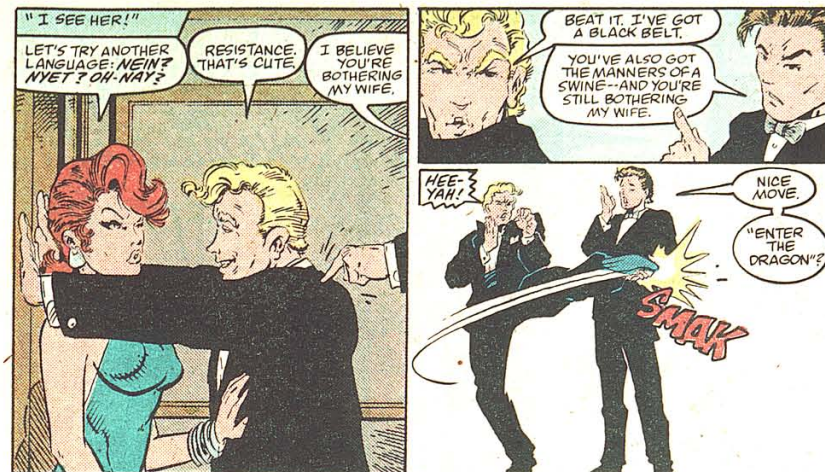
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THE SPIDER'S WEB

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
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JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR
GLENN HERDLING
ASSISTANT EDITOR

SALICRUP'S SECTION



Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's another tribute to Superman! The Man of Steel has turned fifty and it seems the whole blasted world is celebrating his birthday of the granddaddy of all super heroes.

Come June 17th, none other than Stan (the Man) Lee and the Amazing Spider-Man will be among the many guests honoring Superman's creators, Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, at the big Superman Exposition taking place in Cleveland, Ohio.

How many of you remember Spidey's two titanic team-ups with Superman? When J. Jonah Jameson met Perry White? When Doc Ock joined forces with Lex Luthor? When Irving Forester shared a brownie with Bizarro Superman? (Just kidding about that last one.) Yep, these two blue-and-red clad guys go back a few years, and it only seemed right that we acknowledge the of guy's birthday. Hope you liked it.

Dear Spider-People,

Let me begin by saying that I am 32 years old. With just a little amount of reasoning, you can see that I discovered comics when Spider-Man was very young. I wasn't one of the fortunate few who purchased AMAZING FANTASY #15, but I had become an official Spidey fan around issue #10. (Too bad I didn't have the good sense to save those early ones.) So, 20+ years have gone by and issue #300 is here. Things have changed. Peter attended high school, so did I. Then he went on to college, so did I. I got married, so did Peter. I liked the way Parker aged. His aging process was a lot slower than mine, but he's not the same kid anymore.

While some things have changed, others have stayed the same. I can tell you that I felt a grateful wave of nostalgia when I turned the last page of #300 and saw the good old red-and-blue costume was back.

I guess what this whole letter is about is to say, "Thank you." Thanks to all the people who made Spider-Man while I was growing up. And though Spidey has never heard of me, to me he seems like a friend.

I guess that's what they call a "True Believer."

Philip Eganer
Merrillville, IN

You better believe it, Phillip.

Dear Jim, David, Todd, etc.,

I guess I'll start by saying that THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is the best it has been in four or five years. The art has been totally unbelievable ever since Todd came on. Now that we're finished with all the fill-in stories in all three of the Spidey-Mags, I think it is time to get back down to the regular storylines and get rid of stories like Spider-Man playing a game of football to save the world. I first want to say that you should tie up some of the strings that have been floating around the magazine for the past couple of years. There are a couple of plots left dangling that have really been bugging me. The one that is bugging me the most has to be the one from when Nathan was beat up. I don't know if it was forgotten or if you decided to just save it for a later date (come on, it's been two and a half years!). Roger Stern also started a plotline almost five years ago with the Mad Thinker. If you don't resolve these stories, I'll do something drastic.

I also want to say that I loved issue #300 and that I want to see more of this type of story. In spite of the fact that I loved the story, I have to report a major error. You gave The Daily Globe as the newspaper at which Venom had worked. The problem with this is that it is impossible. The Daily Globe folded in issue #210. But since I am such a continually freak (not to mention the fact that I've always wanted a No-Prize, hint, hint), I've come up with an excuse. When the paper was shut down, the owners had decided to sell it and have some money to live on. It was bought and restarted as soon as possible, with an all-new staff, to again start competing with The Daily Bugle. If this doesn't get me a No-Prize, nothing will.

Please don't think that I only wrote this letter because I wanted a No-Prize, because I would have written even if there were no mistakes. Keep up the good work.

Bob Putnam
455 S. Harvard
Villa Park, IL 60161

Kinder words hath ne'er a No-Prize been deserveth of more. (That means it's in the mail, Bob.)

Dear Mr. Salicrup,

I'll try and keep my comments short and as painless as possible.

Subject--AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #300.

Comments--Story: very, very stupid.

Art: very, very good (though, perhaps a bit too reminiscent of A.

Adams).

Thank you.

John Robertson III
(no address given)

Who should be flattered more, Todd McFarlane or Art Adams?

Dear David, Todd and Jim,

Thank you! THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #300 was really as much a celebration as a comic to celebrate about. Finally Mr. Parker has married the beautiful Mary Jane (even more so when drawn by Todd), finally he's got a super-villain worthy of both parts of the word (this Venom is a real creep), and finally we get a SPIDER-MAN anniversary issue that is well worth the extra size and price.

Guy, I have been a fan of Spider-Man (and Peter and Mary Jane (especially Mary Jane)) since I was a little kid, but in the last few years, the stories have gone the way of the stories of that super-guy at the other company until a year or so ago. The writers were just going through the paces. Don't get me wrong, there have been some good stories (like "The Death of Jean DeWolff" and the Kraven six-part). But mostly, the tales had lost their kick.

Now Spider-Man is back! Not only in his old costume (face it, guys, the black was great, but you've already got one Punisher. It's just not...Spidey) but to the difference this title always had. That extra kick, the way it boldly goes where...Yeah, yeah, I'm getting carried away. But look, even if heroes have been named before, this is different. This is Peter, the perpetual teenager/high school-college student/photographer we're talking about. This guy grew with me. He married everybody's school sweetheart (I do sorry for Gwen when she died, but I always did like Mary Jane better. Did you see the last panel on page 177? I'm in love again!).

And the best of all, not only are the stories back, but the art is back as well. There is no one these days that can draw as good as Todd. He is fantastic (heck, he even got me to buy THE HULK). Don't let him leave Spider-Man!

Anyway, I just wanted you to know how pleased I was with the "Venom" story in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #300. Thank you, guys, for bringing Spider-Man back.

Here's looking at you guys for another 25 years!

Emiliano Feliberti III
P.O. Box 4282
Hato Rey, Puerto Rico 00919

...And beyond!

Dear Jim and Glenn,

Congratulations on a terrific 300th issue of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

Mr. McFarlane drew a great cover to celebrate the occasion. This issue's cover is an excellent example of Todd's understanding of the body language that helps make the Spider-Man character unique. There were many examples of this understanding throughout the issue, including the final full-page illustration. I also like Todd's version of the webbing, which makes it look a bit more scientifically feasible. Jim, when I met you at the Chicago Comiccon last summer, you said you were trying to have Todd strike a balance between his extremely experimental Infinity Inc. style and the more standard style he has used on other assignments. I commend you for coming close to striking this balance but ask that you encourage Todd to be a bit more radical. C'mon, let's see some figures and objects jumping out of panels! That's what makes McFarlane McFarlane!

Let's not forget Mr. Michelinie's excellent work. I particularly enjoyed his showing us several very different sides to Mrs. Mary Jane Watson-Parker--the victim, the lowlife, the actress/celebrity. It was nice to have a brand-new villain for this special anniversary issue and, in the greatest of Marvel traditions, David did a good job of giving him strong, fresh motivations for committing his criminal acts.

After all of the recent inventory stories in all the Spider-Man titles, it was nice to have one that, while it stood on its own, fit in well with other Marvel continuity, by leading directly out of the last issue and tying in not only to earlier issues of AMAZING, but also into issues of WEB and SPECTACULAR, into SECRET WARS, into SPIDER-MAN VERSUS WOLVERINE, and even into recent FANTASTIC FOUR issues by showing the Thing in his most recent mutation.

While I'm opposed to the return of the red-and-blue Spider-Man costume (it seems that Marvel is breaking his word to the readers, as back in WEB #16, we were promised, "This is it: the end of the red suit.") I also personally like the black one better. I must say that all of the events of "Venom" together justified Peter's wish to return to it.

All in all, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #300 was a wonderful treat for someone who's been a fan of Peter Parker ever since issue #162. What's next?

Frank Balkin
Filmic Writing Dept.
School of Cinema-TV
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA 90089

Glad you asked, Frank...

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